

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are rejected. New claims 6-10 are added via this Amendment.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

As a preliminary matter, Applicant hereby amends claims 1-4 for clarification of language. These changes were not made because of prior art and should not raise any new issues. Also, amendments were effected in the specification for grammatical reasons.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ebe (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,089). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are proper only when the applied reference discloses each feature recited in the claims. Ebe fails to disclose each feature recited in at least claim 1. The Examiner cites Ebe for an alleged disclosure of a main-barrier 2 and a sub-barrier 3. The Examiner further alleges that the main-barrier and the sub-barrier are “rotatably mounted around one shaft” (i.e., shaft part 4c). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s interpretation of Ebe is improper.

The shaft part 4c relied upon by the Examiner can be seen in Fig. 4. As noted in col. 3, lines 33-37 of Ebe, the sub-barrier 3 is arranged to rotate around the fitting engagement shaft part 4c provided on the main barrier 4. Element 2, applied by the Examiner, is disclosed as being a main-barrier cover for covering the main-barrier 4. However, neither of the main barrier cover 2 nor the main barrier 4 are “rotatably mounted” around the shaft part 4c. In fact, the main barrier cover 2 and the main barrier 4 do not rotate at all. Instead, they slide linearly as discussed in col. 3, lines 63-65, and even acknowledged by the Examiner (see lines 14-15 on page 2 of the Office Action).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ebe does not disclose two barrier blades that are rotatably mounted around one shaft, as claimed. At best, the reference discloses one blade that is rotated around one shaft, and another blade that is moved in a linear manner. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Ebe, and requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Ebe, at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1, in addition to their individual recitations.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 6-10 are added to obtain even more varied protection for the invention. These claims further define various aspects of the lens protector.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/667,573

ART UNIT 2851
Q77509

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

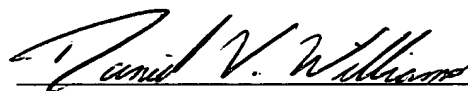
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 28, 2004